

the tower near the fence (exhibits 62, 63). They were well aware of the reported threats and scanned the large and unruly crowd in the canal for individuals "out of baseline" or demonstrating hostile intent (exhibit 62).

(m) At approximately 1730 on 26 August, the crowds at Abbey Gate were desperate and growing agitated (exhibits 76, 77, 80, 84, 89). First Platoon, Golf Company, led by (TEXT REDACTED) were consolidated at the jersey barriers beneath the tower at the outer gate (exhibits 77, 88, 89, 91, 92). The platoon was forced to move nearly all personnel into the corner to hold back the massive and largely recalcitrant crowd from coming over the barriers and breaching the gate (exhibits 89, 91). Three members of the FST, Sgt Nicole Gee, Sgt Johanny Rosario Pichardo, and (TEXT REDACTED) were operating slightly behind the platoon (exhibits 89, 91, 92, 106, 107). (TEXT REDACTED) 2/1's (TEXT REDACTED) were standing to the North of the PSYOP vehicle in the outer corridor (exhibits 53, 76). (TEXT REDACTED) was near the canal, approximately 30–40 meters from the sniper tower (exhibits 77, 89, 92). Several members of Echo Company were in the outer corridor area, escorting civilians or looking for specific potential evacuees (exhibits 61, 62, 63). SSgt Darin Hoover was near the fence at the base of the outer gate tower (exhibit 63). (TEXT REDACTED) was escorting an interpreter to the canal to look for his father in the crowd (exhibit 63). Two corpsmen were also in the outer corridor. HM3 Maxton Soviak was called forward to treat a civilian heat causality and was rendering aid near the canal, but up against the fence (exhibit 92). (TEXT REDACTED) came forward from the inner gate to bring water to the 1st Platoon Marines on the canal wall (exhibit 92). At approximately 1736 local time, 26 August 2021, a single explosion occurred at Abbey Gate (exhibits 66, 98, 72, 121, 236). Overhead persistent infrared systems captured the time of the explosion at precisely 13:06:52Z, or 17:36:52 local (exhibit 236). The STP OIC received notification of the attack from 2/1 Marines by radio at 1738, and used the Signal Application to warn the North HKIA Role II-E of potential casualties at 1739 (exhibit 66, 98).

(n) The blast at Abbey Gate killed thirteen Service Members total, to include eleven Marines, one Sailor, and one Soldier:

(i) SSgt Darin Hoover, USMC, Echo Company 2/1 Marines

(ii) Sgt Nicole Gee, USMC, CLB-24, 24th MEU

(iii) Sgt Johanny Rosario Pichardo, USMC, JTF-CR (TF 51-5th MEB)

(iv) Cpl Hunter Lopez, USMC, Golf Company, 2/1 Marines

(v) Cpl Daegan Page, USMC, Golf Company, 2/1 Marines

(vi) Cpl Humberto Sanchez, USMC, Golf Company, 2/1 Marines

(vii) LCpl David Espinoza, USMC, Golf Company, 2/1 Marines

(viii) LCpl Rylee McCollum, USMC, Golf Company, 2/1 Marines

(ix) LCpl Dylan Merola, USMC, Golf Company, 2/1 Marines

(x) LCpl Kareem Nikoui, USMC, Golf Company, 2/1 Marines

(xi) LCpl Jared Schmitz, USMC, Golf Company, 2/1 Marines

(xii) HM3 Maxton Soviak, USN, Golf Company, 2/1 Marines

(xiii) SSG Ryan Knauss, USA, Bravo Company, 9th Psychological Operations Battalion (A)

(o) Those killed in action were all located in vicinity of the tower at the outer gate standing a security position at the edge of the canal or jersey barriers, with the exception of SSG Knauss and SSgt Hoover (exhibits 63, 91, 92, 105, 129). Three of the 1st Platoon Marines who were killed in the blast were elevated on the canal wall, helping pull potential evacuees into the outer gate: LCpl

Rylee McCollum, LCpl Dylan Merola, and LCpl Kareem Nikoui. SSgt Hoover was in the outer corridor area, on the inside of the fence, near the tower (exhibits 63, 91, 92). SSG Knauss was in the outer corridor area with the PSYOP vehicle, on the passenger's side, to the rear of the vehicle (exhibits 105, 129). The vehicle front was pointed at the jersey barrier and canal intersection below the tower where 1st Platoon was providing crowd control and security. Autopsy summaries provided by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner's Office confirmed all Service Members who were KIA died of blast and ballistic injuries (exhibit 145). There were no gunshot wounds on any of the KIA, but significant penetrating ball bearing injuries (exhibit 145). Injuries sustained to those KIA were primarily lacerations, ruptures, and bruising to the head, torso, and pelvis (exhibits 138, 145). Of the protective gear examined by Joint Trauma Analysis and Prevention of Injury in Combat (JTAPIC), small arms protective insert (SAPI) plates and helmets were effective at stopping fragmentation and ball bearings (exhibit 138).

(p) Those interviewed during the investigation could not provide a number of civilian casualties caused by the attack. Most were only aware of open source reporting and concurred the number would be substantial. Open source reporting estimates casualties at 160–170 (exhibits 251, 252).

(q) Numerous Marines were wounded because of the attack, with most being part of 1st Platoon, Golf Company or members of 2/1 Marines positioned in the canal or in the outer corridor area, near the physical gate and PSYOP vehicle (exhibits 63, 91, 92, 105, 129, 224). The initial list of wounded is best captured by the 2/1 S2 blast and injury analysis, sketches from Echo and Golf Company NCOs, and Aeromedical Evacuation Critical Care Air Transport Team (AE-CCATT) TRANSCOM Regulating and Command and Control Evacuation System (TRAC2ES) flight data (exhibits 92, 137, 236). There appear to be 27 service members reported as initially wounded during the attack, but eight were not medically evacuated and instead redeployed with the unit (exhibits 68, 92, 93, 95, 131). The remaining nineteen were redeployed due to their wounds (exhibit 68). However, since redeploying, units have reported additional TBI and concussion related wounds for 12 more Marines, for a total of 39 Service Members wounded in the attack (exhibits 68, 92, 93, 95, 164). This new number does not include members of the 82nd Airborne who were conducting a leader's recon at Abbey Gate for the RIP, and 24th MEU personnel, who were also in the outer corridor area (exhibits 107, 124, 129). The number of wounded from the attack at Abbey Gate will almost certainly continue to grow.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING ENTERTAINMENT FORT SMITH

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and thank the creators and staff at Entertainment Fort Smith magazine for 22 years of championing arts, entertainment, and the people of western Arkansas.

Lynn Wasson and Linda Seubold launched Entertainment Fort Smith, more commonly referred to as E-Fort Smith, in 2000 to showcase the area's vibrant arts and entertainment scene and keep local residents informed about upcoming events. Within its pages, they covered everything from international mural art found through the Unexpected Project and the annual

Peacemaker Music Festival, to the Fort Smith Little Theatre's latest productions and story-time schedules for the local library.

The magazine printed 30,000 issues every month that were distributed at over 200 locations in Fort Smith, Van Buren, Greenwood, Alma, Barling, Charleston, and throughout the region.

Not only was E-Fort Smith a calendar of events, but the magazine's features also spotlighted the lives of local people that make western Arkansas unique. In addition, Wasson and Seubold used their platform to show their great love for the State of Arkansas.

Brandon Chase Goldsmith, executive director of the Fort Smith International Film Festival, praised E-Fort Smith for its support and for being a driving force behind the region's creative economy over the years. Likewise, the magazine has been recognized as a critical partner in helping secure Fort Smith as the site for the U.S. Marshals Museum, which will honor the over 230-year history of the Marshals Service and is expected to open in 2023.

E-Fort Smith published its final edition in July 2022 after more than two decades of promoting local businesses and artists.

I would like to thank the founders and all the staff of E-Fort Smith who inspired the community and highlighted Arkansas's rich culture. Their efforts made a difference and the magazine's legacy will live beyond its final printing.●

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER VIDRINE

• Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of our strongest and valued leaders in municipal government from my home State of Louisiana, Mayor Jennifer Vidrine. On July 30, Mayor Vidrine will become the first African-American woman to lead the Louisiana Municipal Association—LMA. She will also be the third woman to serve in this prestigious position in the LMA's 96 years of service to municipal government in Louisiana.

While Mayor Vidrine will undoubtedly lead this fine organization for the next year with great loyalty and enthusiasm, she will also continue to serve her most beloved residents of Ville Platte. Since her election in 2011, Mayor Vidrine has not stopped working to bring improvements and investments to her city. She remains at the forefront of local government officials developing new approaches to solving complicated problems.

Mayor Vidrine is a woman of great faith who believes in serving her community wholeheartedly. She is a lifelong member of her hometown congregation of the Ninth Missionary Baptist Church, where she serves and assists in a number of leadership roles.